

# Indiana Traffic Safety Facts 2004

## Pedalcyclists

<http://www.in.gov/cji>

According to Joseph Kane in his book *Famous First Facts*, the first automobile crash in the United States occurred in 1896, in New York City, when a motor vehicle collided with a pedalcycle rider. Since 1932, the first year that estimates of pedalcycle rider fatalities were recorded, more than 49,000 pedalcyclists have died in traffic crashes in the United States. In 2004 alone, 725 pedalcyclists were killed in traffic crashes throughout the country, and an additional 41,000 were injured. The following table shows the progression of pedalcyclist fatalities over the last 10 years in Indiana.

**Table 1. Number of Pedalcyclist Fatalities in Indiana, 1995-2004**

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
14	6	13	14	14	11	12	9	7	13

Over the past ten years, the number of pedalcyclist fatalities has ranged from a high of 14 to a low of 6, with both of these extremes occurring in 1995 and 1996, respectively. Beginning in 1997, the number of pedalcyclists killed in Indiana remained relatively constant through 2001. The years 2002 and 2003 recorded single digit fatality rates, but by 2004, the number escalated to 13 pedalcycle riders that were killed on Indiana's roadways.

In 2004, pedalcyclist fatalities happened most often on Thursday, with four of the thirteen (30.7 percent) occurring on that day. Another four fatalities (30.7 percent) occurred between Friday and Saturday, thereby accounting for eight of the 13 fatalities (61.5 percent) occurring during the period of Thursday through Saturday. Somewhat surprisingly, there were no pedalcyclist fatalities in Indiana on a Sunday during 2004. Ten of the thirteen pedalcyclist fatalities (76.9 percent) occurred during the nighttime hours of 6:00 PM through 5:59 AM. More than 60 percent of pedestrian fatalities also occurred during this same time frame. The deadliest hour for pedalcyclists was 7:00-7:59 PM, when a total of four fatalities (30.8 percent) occurred during this hour.

**Table 2. Pedalcyclist Fatalities by Day of Week and Hour of Day in Indiana, 2004**

Hour of Day	Day of the Week							Total
	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
0:01-0:59 AM	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
11:00-11:59 AM	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2:00-2:59 PM	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
4:00-4:59 PM	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
6:00-6:59 PM	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
7:00-7:59 PM	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	4
8:00-8:59 PM	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
9:00-9:59 PM	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
10:00-10:59 PM	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	0	1	2	2	4	2	2	13

Of the thirteen pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes, an overwhelming majority were male, (12 of the 13 or, 92.3 percent.) Nationally, of the 725 pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 2004, 630 (86.9 percent) were male. The single female fatality was not tested for alcohol, and of the twelve male fatalities, seven either had a result of 0.00 percent or no test was given. The remaining five fatalities showed test results ranging from 0.04 percent BAC up to 0.35 percent BAC, indicating that more than 38 percent of the deceased pedalcyclists tested positive for alcohol at the time of the crash, with three (23.1 percent) testing over the legal limit in the State of Indiana for operating a motor vehicle. Nationally, 20 percent of pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes tested in the same range.

**Table 3. Average Age of Pedalcyclists Killed by Year In Indiana, 1995-2004**

Year	Average Age (Years of Age)
2004	40
2003	36
2002	41
2001	29
2000	27
1999	30
1998	35
1997	18
1996	17
1995	37

As the information indicates, the average age varies over the last ten years with a low of 17 years of age in 1996, and a high of 41 years of age in 2002. For 2004, the youngest pedalcyclist fatality was 17 years of age, with the oldest being 60 years of age.

**Table 4. Surrounding State Comparison of Fatalities, 2004**

State	Total Fatalities	Pedalcyclist Fatalities
Indiana	947	13
Illinois	1,356	25
Kentucky	964	7
Michigan	1,159	21
Ohio	1,286	19

*This publication was prepared on behalf of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute by Purdue University's Center for the Advancement of Transportation Safety. All information contained within was gathered from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) Web-Based Encyclopedia provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) available at <http://www.fars.nhtsa.dot.gov>. All figures are considered current as of September 2005. Please direct any questions concerning data in this document to the Center for the Advancement of Transportation Safety, Purdue University, 1291-F Cumberland Ave., West Lafayette, IN 47906-1385, 765-494-7038.*

**Table 5. Pedalcyclist Fatalities by Age Group in Indiana, 2004**

Age Group	Number of Fatalities
0-15	0
16-19	1
20-29	1
30-39	1
40-49	8
50-59	1
60-69	1
70+	0